

**LEXINGTON PARK, MD – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement today after touring a portion of the Fifth District from the air to assess the damage from Hurricane Irene:**

“This afternoon, I joined Southern Maryland officials for an aerial tour of Calvert and St. Mary's Counties to assess the damage to our district from last night's storm. According to reports, portions of Calvert and St. Mary's appear to be among the state's worst hit areas, leaving tens of thousands of residents without power. It appears that our electric grid experienced the most damage, in addition to that experienced by individual homeowners. Fortunately, there is not as much devastating flooding as we've seen in the past with other storms, such as that experienced after Hurricane Isabel.

“I want to thank all those dedicated people who worked to keep our residents safe and well-informed throughout the storm preparation, during the storm, and now on the recovery. My thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by Hurricane Irene, and I will continue working with federal, state, and local officials to ensure that our community has the resources it needs to clean up and recover.”